



## Office of International Affairs

### *International Volunteers In Parks Program*



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Chart of how the process works between the Park, the Volunteer, and OIA			
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Because the NPS sponsors IVIPs under the category of training, all parks must submit a training plan. Here is an example.			

Front Cover:

Top Left - Karma Tshering, an international volunteer from Bhutan, tracks the desert tortoise at Joshua Tree National Park;

Top Right - A team of U.S. and international volunteers work together to build a section of trail at Golden Gate National Recreation Area;

Bottom Left - Australian Anthony Ball, while participating in a fire management program, takes a break rowing across Yellowstone Lake;

Bottom Right - Wietske van Betuw (in camouflage) of the Netherlands samples water at Everglades National Park for a water quality project.

# The J-1 Visa Program for International Volunteers (IVIP)

*The National Park Service (NPS) Office of International Affairs (OIA) has been designated to coordinate the National Park Service J-1 Visa Program run through the State Department. The following information should be used as a guide through the process. The Office of International Affairs is your source for further questions on the program. Please feel free to contact OIA if you have questions.*

## What You Should Know

The J-1 Visa is a special entry visa issued by the United States Department of State International Exchange Visitor Program. The J-1 Visa permits foreign visitors to volunteer here in the United States. The National Park Service has been authorized to sponsor international volunteers in the category of training. According to Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS)(formerly Immigration and Naturalization - INS) regulations, we cannot have foreign volunteers receiving even minimal compensation such as government quarters (if the park normally charges paid employees for the housing) or a daily reimbursement unless they have a special work visa.

We accept qualified people from around the world that are interested in helping the NPS with its mission and who want to live and work as volunteers in one of America's national parks. J-1 programs administered by government agencies are normally from a minimum of one week up to 18 months in length. (OIA urges that programs be at least 3 weeks in length, for the benefit of the park).

Currently the NPS has been approved by the State Department to sponsor J-1 volunteers for programs up to 4 months in length. OIA will be applying to the State Department for permission to host J-1 volunteers up to the maximum allowable time period. We will notify regional volunteer coordinators and place an announcement in *InsideNPS* if and when OIA is given permission to sponsor IVIPs for greater than 4 months. International volunteers are expected to pay their own travel costs and have medical insurance.

Most of our volunteers are college students majoring in an environmental field and who are on summer break and want to do something fun but at the same time learn from their experiences. We also get a number of park rangers from other countries that want to see how we manage our resources. We welcome anyone who has a desire to help us out. Our international volunteers have been involved in all kinds of programs including wildlife management, GPS and GIS mapping, visitor services and interpretation, museum management, fire management, trail design and maintenance, historic preservation, and many others.

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Slovakian Volunteer Eva Viestova undertakes an environmental education training program at Cuyahoga Valley NRA by leading a school group through an exercise.



Prospective volunteers contact the NPS in several different ways. Sometimes they find us on the Internet and/or contact a park directly or they may utilize a third party such as the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to find a position. If they do not have a specific park in mind, OIA will advertise their availability through e-mail or *InsideNPS*.

Over the last few years the International Volunteers- In- Parks program has grown considerably. In a recent survey sent to all national park units, of volunteer coordinators who responded, 86% said that hosting international volunteers was a rewarding proposition which they would repeat. In another survey sent to former volunteers, 100% of the respondents admitted that they returned to their countries with a greater appreciation of parks. An astounding 50% have gone on to acquire positions in parks or park related fields in their country, or are actively seeking employment in parks.

### **Why Should We Use International Volunteers?**

It is no secret that the National Park Service is recognized throughout the world as being at the forefront of protected area management. As such, many foreigners want to see and experience life in one of our parks. Reaching out to these people so that they can see how America's natural and cultural treasures are managed will help create a better awareness of protecting the global environment. Placing International Volunteers into our parks will help them gain new cultural insights while at the same time we can learn new ideas from them.

## Are There Any Special Requirements?

As can be expected, a program involving visas means there is some added paperwork but the process itself is actually very easy. Fourteen questions need to be answered and the park needs to provide OIA with a training plan. The volunteer needs to provide proof of medical insurance.

Under our agreement with the State Department, the NPS is designated as a training agency. As a sponsor of an IVIP, you will need to ensure that OIA receives documentation in writing that the volunteer is receiving training. By providing a training plan for the volunteer, the park will benefit, along with the volunteer. Setting training goals and objectives insures that the most important aspects of training are covered and that the volunteer will practice the skills which will meet the park's priority needs; thus insuring a successful volunteer program. The more experience these volunteers gain, the greater their possibility of obtaining park positions in their country.

**Health Insurance:** The insurance requirement is also very important because many foreign countries have socialized medicine and volunteers will have no coverage unless they purchase additional coverage. During work hours Workman's Compensation will apply, but after hours if there is an injury that requires medical attention the volunteer will be on his/her own. Considering the cost of medical care here in the U.S., without some kind of medical backup the IVIP would be in an extremely bad situation. The insurance requirements are included in this package.

**Reporting:** To participate in the program, all IVIPs must agree to submit a final report detailing their volunteer experience. Compliance with this requirement is essential to the State Department's continued support of our program. Viewed as a whole, these IVIPs' reports document the scope of international volunteer contributions to national parks and the value of cultural exchange to the NPS. The accounts are posted on International Affairs section on *Inside NPS* and can be found on the International Volunteer- In- Parks Program page under "News."

**Security and Tracking:** Due to the events of September 11 and the past inability of government agencies to track student and exchange visitor visa holders while they were in the U.S., the State Department has introduced new guidelines for the J-1 program. OIA must enter all J-1 volunteers into the new SEVIS (Student Exchange Visitor Information System) tracking system. This system allows the government to track visa holders from start to finish.

All parks sponsoring international volunteers must notify OIA when the volunteers arrive to begin their programs and when they finish. OIA must also be notified if international volunteers leave their park for more than 48 hours. These instances could include extended field trips to parks or other areas, training outside the park, or other similar events. Failure to notify OIA may cause the visa to be terminated.

## Information Needed By OIA to Complete the DS-2019

1. Full name of applicant as it appears on passport; current mailing address (no PO Boxes); phone number and e- mail address, if available.
2. Male or Female.
3. Date of birth
4. City and country of birth.
5. Legal permanent resident of what country.
6. Previous J- I visa? If so, list date and program sponsor.
7. Position in home country. Be as specific as possible. If applicant is a student, list major subject area and level of education (graduate or undergraduate).
8. A copy of the health insurance policy showing that it meets program requirements should be attached. However, if the policy is not written in English, it should be accompanied a statement from the insurance company (English only, please) verifying that all medical insurance requirements of the exchange visitor program have been met. The least satisfactory, but acceptable in an emergency, would be a signed letter from the applicant verifying that the enclosed policy meets all medical insurance requirements.
- \*9. An individual training plan, designed specifically for each volunteer, summarizing the purpose, goals, and weekly training activities to be given.
- \*10. Dates of proposed volunteer service. Address where volunteer may be reached in the U.S.
- \*11. Describe the specific field of research, study, training, or professional activity to be engaged in while IVIP is in the U.S. Include a training plan and work summary.
- \*12. Estimate the dollar value of any support (housing, reimbursements, etc.) the visitor will receive from NPS during the exchange period.
- \*13. If another federal or non- governmental organization will provide financial support for exchange, estimate dollar value.
- \*14. Name of supervisor during exchange period, their title and phone number.
- \*15. Federal Express account number for the park/unit of the IVIP. Mail in many other countries is not dependable and FedEx delivery will insure documents arrive in time to obtain the visa.

*\* This information to be submitted ONLY by the NPS unit receiving volunteer.*

## Medical Insurance Requirements for the J-1 Visa

### A. Minimum Coverage Shall Provide: (U.S. Dollars)

- Medical Benefits of at least \$50,000/accident or illness.
- Repatriation of remains in the amount of \$7,500.
- Expenses associated with medical evacuation to \$10,000.
- A deductible not to exceed \$500/accident or illness.

### B. An accompanying spouse or dependent of an IVIP should have equal coverage.

### C. An IVIP that fails to maintain the insurance coverage set forth above while a participant in the IVIP program or who makes material misrepresentation to the sponsor concerning such coverage shall be deemed to be in violation of these regulations and shall be subject to termination as participant.

### D. A sponsor shall terminate an IVIP program if the volunteer, spouse, or dependent fails to remain in compliance with the insurance regulations.

### E. The Office of International Affairs must have proof (in English) of appropriate coverage. This may consist of a letter from the Insurance company, or a photocopy of the insurance plan translated and signed by the IVIP.

## I. Authorization for the Program

The National Park Service (NPS) is granted authorization by the Mutual Education and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, (P.L. 87- 256, 75 Stat 527; U.S.C. Title 22, Chapter 33, Section 2452) which allows programs of cultural and educational exchange with the approval of the United States Department of State under which the NPS sponsors program number G- 3- 10017.

skills or training they may not receive in their country, are all valuable potential participants in our program.

This important international aspect of our IVIP program is based on three outstanding principles:

## 2. Program/Activity Description

### A. Program/Activity rationale

A program of the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, provides park related training and development opportunities for qualified foreign trainees, government visitors, and specialists to promote the general interest of international educational and cultural exchange.

1. The belief that the experience gained by the IVIPs in this country will be valuable in any future relations that individual has with parks in his/her country of residence, and will further the goals of biodiversity, and sustainable development in their country.

2. The contacts the IVIPs have here in the United States with park employees and park visitors will be an excellent cultural learning experience for them that gives them a better understanding of our country and governing processes.

### B. Goals and Objectives

Similar to its domestic Volunteers-In- Parks (VIP) program, the National Park Service J- 1 International Volunteer Program allows foreign residents the chance to volunteer in a park to gain additional experience. Students looking for information for a masters thesis, looking for more specific career directions within the environmental field, or professionals looking for special

3. The National Park Service employees that work with the IVIPs will also have an interesting and educational relationship as they work closely with people from differing cultures, and with different professional experiences. That will help our organization work more sympathetically and more effectively with the ever increasing number of foreign tourists visiting our parks every year.

## IVIP Use Of Government Vehicles

National Park Service, Director's Order #7, Volunteer Activities, Section 7.2, states that volunteers can operate government owned vehicles if they possess a valid state for the class of vehicle being operated and the operation of the vehicle is required in writing as part of the agreement for voluntary services.

The Code of Federal Regulations, 5 CFR Part 930, Subpart A, governs agencies in authorizing employees to operate Government—owned or leased motor vehicles for official purposes within the United States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the territories and possessions of the United States. This subpart defines a “state license” as a valid driver's license that would be required for the operation of similar vehicles for other than official Government business by the States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or territory or possessions of the United States in which the employee is domiciled or principally employed. The subpart also states that an operator or incidental operator will have a state license in his or her possession at all times while driving a Government—owned or leased motor vehicle on a public highway.

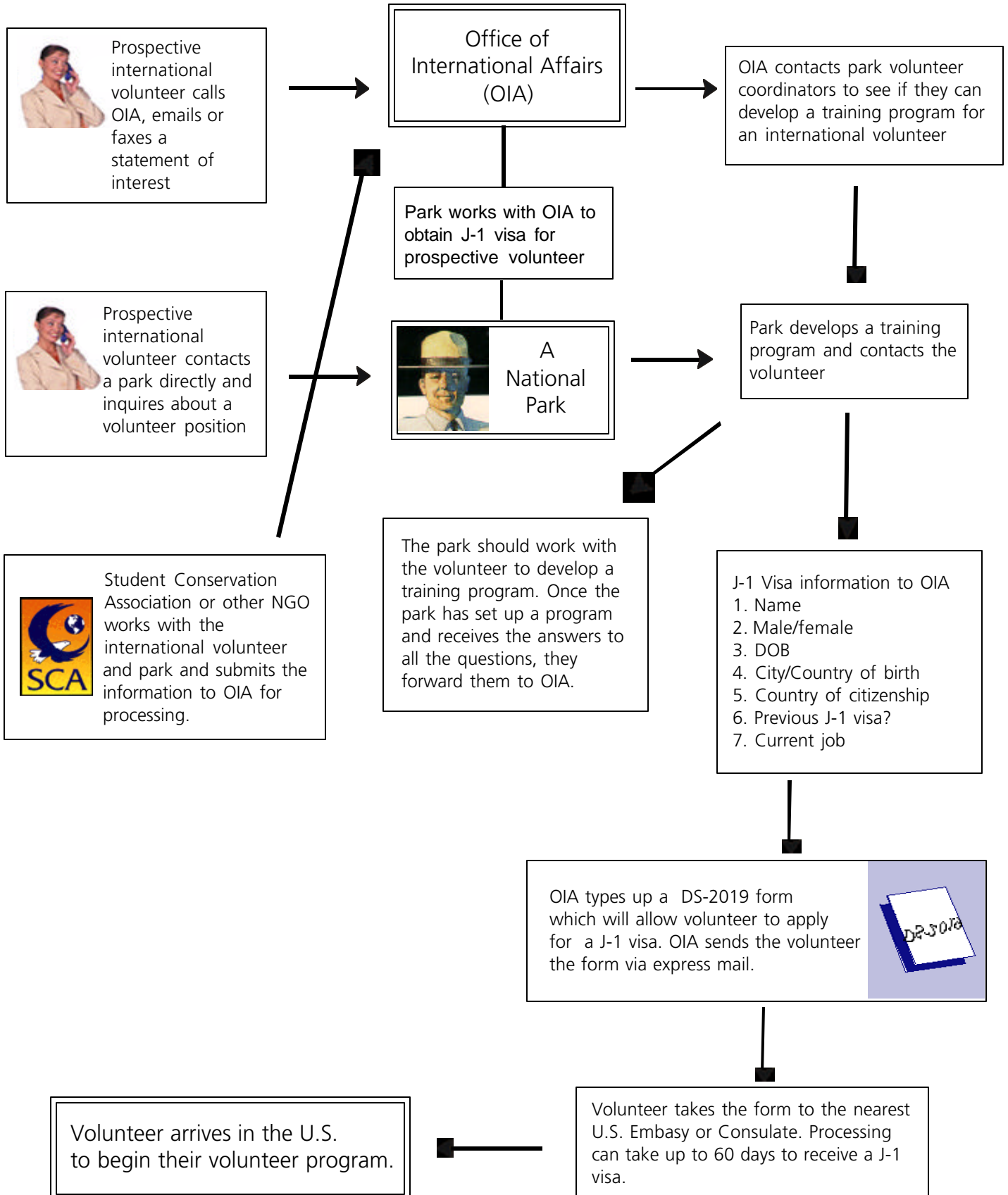
Each park permitting international volunteers to operate government motor vehicles for official purposes should contact the state Department of Motor Vehicle Administration in which they will be residing and/or operating the vehicle to determine what is recognized as a valid operator's license. For example, the State of Maryland requires persons that reside outside of the United States and its possessions to have a valid out of country drivers license and the international drivers license.

National Park Service, Director's Order #44, Personal Property Management Handbook, Section 11.29, also states to operate a Government vehicle; civilian employees of the NPS must have a valid state, District of Columbia or Commonwealth operator's license for the type of vehicle to be operated.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Vaughn, Property Management Program, (202) 354-1957.



# J-1 Visa Process Flow Chart



## **Example of a Training Plan**

### **National Park Service Exchange Visitor Program G- 3- 10017**

#### **General Training Plan Historical Interpretation**

#### **Training Summary For Exchange Visitor**

This Historical Interpretation training will provide the exchange visitor with a solid background in the history of Colonial America and the Revolutionary War. It will teach them how to interpret colonial history to individual visitors and groups, and give them experience in working at a national historical park. It is ideal for an exchange visitor who may be a history student, or for a park ranger from another country wishing to learn how the NPS interprets/manages its historical parks. It is ideal if the exchange visitor begins their training in early April so that they will have a solid background in the history of the park by the time the busy summer season starts in mid May.

#### **Week 1: Park Orientation & Cross- Cultural Training (40 hours).**

Exchange visitor will be introduced to the mission of the National Park Service and their park. He/she will be given a park- wide tour and issues facing the park will be discussed. The exchange visitor will also be given a chance to attend regularly scheduled park interpretive programs, so that they will have a better understanding of the history that took place here. One day will be spent with the exchange visitor on cultural norms of the area and he/she will become familiar with local area attractions.

#### **Week 2: Park Orientation & Safety Training (30 hours).**

The exchange visitor will continue to be familiarized with the park and will mentor with someone from each division so that they will have a clearer understanding of the park and its operations. The exchange visitor will spend 4 hours with each division, including: maintenance, natural resource management, cultural resource management, interpretation, administration, law enforcement, and concessions.

Following this introduction, the exchange visitor will undergo Adult CPR & First Aid training and will be required to pass a test to receive certification. They will also learn how to correctly use a fire extinguisher and report incidents within the park (10 hours).

#### **Week 3 & 4: The Philosophy of Interpretation (80 hours).**

During the following two weeks, the exchange visitor will be given intensive training on how the National Park Service provides interpretation of historical resources to it's visitors. This training program will usually include seasonal park staff as well. The training will include:

- History of the U.S. Revolutionary War
- History of the park
- The Philosophy of Interpretation
- History of NPS Interpretation methods
- How to develop an interpretive program
- Why themes, goals, and objectives are important

- Developing programs, walks, slide shows, informally or formally
- Presenting Programs to large groups, how to handle stage fright
- Questions that may arise from groups
- How to handle noisy participants
- Preparing a short sample program
- Presenting the short program to the class participants
- Peer review

This two- week session may also include one or both of the following courses:

NPS Interpretive Training  
Module 101: *Fulfilling the NPS Mission: The Process of Interpretation*

NPS Interpretive Training  
Module 103: *Preparing and Presenting an Effective Interpretive Talk.*

#### **Weeks 5 & 6:**

Before the training begins for this week, the exchange visitor will sit down with his/her supervisor to review the previous four weeks of training. The supervisor will provide an informal evaluation and through discussion with the exchange visitor, make sure the training being provided is meeting his/her needs. The supervisor will also make sure the exchange visitor is adjusting to their new surroundings and lifestyle.

Historical Research and development of Park Interpretive Programs (80 hours). During the next two weeks, the exchange visitor will have many opportunities to become thoroughly familiar with the park and the history it represents. The exchange visitor will be given research time in the park and in off- site libraries and museums,

attend additional park programs, and read selected and recommended literary works. In consultation with his/her supervisor, the exchange visitor will begin preparations for leading park interpretive programs, tours, with the goal of being able to handle most visitor queries. By the conclusion of these two weeks, the exchange visitor will be able to present at least two interpretive programs that are a minimum of 20 minutes in length.

The exchange visitor will then be scheduled to present their interpretive programs for the next several weeks to practice their interpretive skills and gain experience. The first several programs presented will be completed with his/her supervisor present, who will be available to offer coaching and/or handle difficult questions.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Q: What is the process to sponsor an international volunteer?*

A: The volunteer must answer eight questions, the park answers six. The volunteer must also show proof of insurance and the park must provide a training plan. OIA will handle the processing.

*Q: What kinds of costs are associated with the program?*

A: The park usually provides free or reduced cost housing to the volunteer, but not always. Also, it may provide a reimbursement for food or other expenses. Generally, a volunteer uniform (hat, shirt) is also supplied. Each park sets their own policy towards what support will be provided to international volunteers. The volunteers are expected to pay their own travel costs and have medical insurance. There might also be a charge for the J1 visa depending on the policy of the U.S. Consulate/Embassy.

*Q: How long does it take for the process to be completed?*

A: Once all the questions and information is forwarded to OIA, the forms will be express mailed to the volunteer. The prospective volunteer takes the forms to their nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy. Depending on the consulate/embassy, it can take anywhere from one to four weeks or more for the volunteer to get their visa. **Note: Since September 11, 2001, visa applications are now subject to a greater degree of scrutiny than in the past. Applicants are informed of the need for additional screening at the time they submit their applications and are being advised to expect delays.**

*Q: Our park has some work available. Can we pay the volunteer a salary if the volunteer does the work in their free time?*

A: No. Under no circumstances can an exchange visitor with a J1 visa receive a salary.

*Q: Our volunteer cannot find adequate medical insurance. What can we do?*

A: The park can purchase insurance for the volunteer if they want. Or the volunteer can make arrangements to purchase insurance in the U.S. However, they cannot begin their program until they provide proof that they have insurance that meets program regulations.

*Q: Does OIA know of any insurance agencies that provide medical insurance that meets the program regulations?*

A: OIA has used a company in Washington, D.C. called Marsh Affinity Group (formerly Seabury & Smith), 1- 800- 282- 4495. They have a policy specific to J1 exchange visitors. Note: OIA does not endorse the policies of this group and is only providing their contact information as a possibility for insurance coverage. There are undoubtedly other companies in the U.S. that provide similar coverage.

*Q: A prospective international volunteer has contacted us but they are already in the U.S. Can they volunteer for us?*

A: It depends. If they already have a J1 visa in the category of training, we can assume sponsorship of their program. However, if they are in another category or are in the U.S. on a tourist visa, then it is much more complicated. Contact OIA for more information.

*Q: Our international volunteer has decided to leave before completing their program. What do we need to do?*

A: Contact OIA. We will notify the BCIS and the State Department that their visa needs to be terminated.

*Q: We are very happy with our international volunteer and would like to extend his/her program. What do we need to do?*

A: Currently OIA can only sponsor volunteers for up to 4 months. If your volunteer has not exceeded the 4- month time limit, contact OIA and we will work with you to extend your volunteer. An additional training plan will need to be submitted to cover the additional time period.

*Q: We were very happy with our international volunteer this year. Can they return next year to volunteer with us again?*

A: Maybe. There is a regulation that states that any exchange visitor that participates in an exchange program financed in full or part by the U.S. Government must reside in their country of residence for at least two years before returning. That ruling has been relaxed somewhat and volunteers may be able to return before waiting two years.

*Q: We have an Artist- in- Residence program at our park. We might want to sponsor an international artist. Can we use the J- 1 program to do this?*

A: Probably not. OIA contacted the State Department about using the J- 1 program to sponsor international artists. Because artists would not be receiving training, the State Department suggested that international artists participate under regular tourist visa. Contact OIA for more information.

*Q: A couple of visitors from another country visited our park today. They really enjoyed the park and want to help out. Can they volunteer for a few hours/days without a J1 visa?*

A: This question often arises each summer, as many foreign visitors come to our parks and want to help out for a few hours/days. Although the State Department understands the desires of foreign visitors to assist with short- term volunteer projects, they advised that each international visitor arrives to the U.S. under a specific visa type. Though the State Department is open to allowing international visitors to contribute a few hours of unskilled work to a simple park project (picking up litter, clearing brush, etc.), anything greater than that would require a J- 1 visa. Program managers are advised to have volunteers sign a park volunteer agreement, so that the park will not be liable for any subsequent injuries.

*Q: Our Park has been inundated with volunteer applications from various countries and/or people who have no skills or seem to be willing to do anything to volunteer with us. Does OIA have any suggestions?*

A: Although international volunteers are accepted without regard to race, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or disability, OIA is aware that some parks have been receiving a great number of applications from specific countries. The State Department has stated that many of these applicants, from countries with high unemployment rates and poverty, are more than likely just looking for a way into the U.S. so that they can disappear to find employment. Parks interested in applicants from these countries should coordinate with OIA so that they can be probably vetted to insure against fraud.

*Q: A foreign college student has contacted us about volunteering at our park. Is this possible?*

A: Normally a student with an “F” visa must change their visa to a J1 in order to volunteer with the NPS. This only makes sense if they are at the end of their student program, otherwise they would have to revert back to an “F” visa at the end of their park program. To convert a visa, the State Department now charges \$198. Contact OIA for more information.

*Q: Our volunteer wants to travel after the end of their program. Is this possible or do they have to leave the country at the end of their program?*

A: The Bureau of Citizenship & Immigration (BCIS) and the State Department allow for an extra 30 days past the date noted on their DS- 2019. This time is to be used to make arrangements to return home and/or as vacation.

*Q: Are there any other categories within the J- 1 Program that the NPS has authorization to use?*

A: Yes. OIA also has authorization to sponsor international visitors with J- 1 visas, in the category of “Government Visitors.” OIA can only use these visas in special instances.

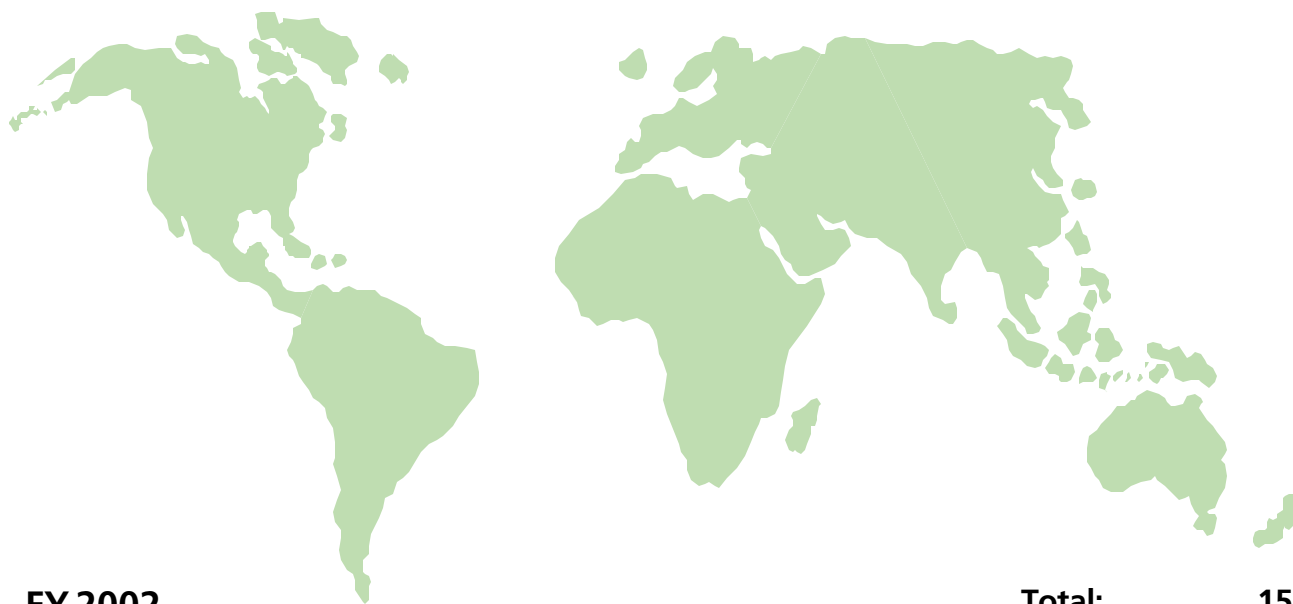
*Q: How might this category be used?*

A: If a park has a “Sister- Park” relationship with a park in another country, and wants to bring staff from that park to the U.S. for a short- term visit, we can utilize this category. The same J1 regulations apply (though no training plan is required), with the exception that the exchange visitors must be foreign government employees.

*Q: My Park would like to host an international volunteer. Where can we find one?*

A: OIA advertises prospective international volunteers through email or InsideNPS. OIA also has brochures describing the International Volunteer Program that can be distributed to prospective and interested IVIPs. Contact OIA for more information. The Student Conservation Association (SCA) also has international volunteers.

## Countries Represented in NPS IVIP Program



**FY 2002**

**Total: 150**

Country	# of IVIPs	Country	# of IVIPs	Country	# of IVIPs
Argentina	1	France	5	Philippines	1
Austria	3	Germany	16	Poland	1
Australia	17	Hungary	1	Portugal	1
Bolivia	1	India	1	Romania	2
Brazil	1	Ireland	1	Russia	4
Bulgaria	1	Italy	3	South Africa	4
Canada	14	Japan	15	Slovakia	2
China	1	Mexico	9	Sweden	1
Columbia	2	Netherlands	1	Switzerland	2
Denmark	2	New Zealand	2	Turkey	1
El Salvador	1	Nicaragua	2	Uganda	2
Finland	1	Panama	2	UK	19

**FY 2001**

Country	# of IVIPs	Country	# of IVIPs	Country	# of IVIPs
Argentina	1	Finland	1	Nicaragua	3
Austria	2	France	13	Poland	3
Australia	2	Germany	16	Romania	1
Belgium	1	India	2	Russia	3
Bolivia	3	Ireland	4	Slovak Repub.	1
Brazil	4	Italy	1	South Africa	4
Bulgaria	1	Japan	5	Spain	1
Canada	18	Lithuania	1	Sweden	1
Chile	1	Mexico	8	Switzerland	3
China	1	Nepal	2	Ukraine	1
Croatia	1	Netherlands	9	UK	20
Denmark	2	New Zealand	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>

## Participating Parks

### FY 2002

Park	# of IVIPs	Park	# of IVIPs	Park	# of IVIPs
Arches	1	Golden Gate	12	North Cascades	4
Assateague	1	Great Basin	1	Olympic	3
Big Bend	1	Great Smoky Mts.	2	Organ Pipe	5
Buck Island Reef	4	GRSM Institute	1	Ozarks	1
Buffalo River	1	Grand Teton	4	Pictured Rocks	1
Canyonlands	1	Guadalupe	2	Point Reyes	2
Colonial	4	HABS/HAER	14	Redwoods	1
Curecanti	3	Hawaii Volcanos	9	Rocky Mountain	3
Cuyahoga	4	Hopewell Furnace	1	Santa Monica Mts.	3
Delaware Water Gap	4	Hubbell Trading Post	1	Sequoia	2
Denali	3	Indiana Dunes	2	Shenandoah	1
Dinosaur	1	Isle Royale	1	Timpanogos	1
Everglades	4	Katmai	1	Western Arctic	3
Fossil Butte	1	Kenai Fjords	1	White Sands	1
Fredericksburg	1	Midwest Region	2	Yellowstone	7
Gateway	4	Mount Rainier	19	Yosemite	1
Glacier	1	NJ Coastal Trail	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>

### FY 2001

Park	# of IVIPs	Park	# of IVIPs	Park	# of IVIPs
Amistad	1	Grand Canyon	1	Oregon Caves	2
Badlands	2	Grand Teton	1	Organ Pipe	4
Bandelier	1	Guadalupe Mts	1	Point Reyes	1
Big Bend	1	Hawaii Volcano	9	Redwood	6
Cape Cod	1	Hubbell	1	Richmond Battlefield	1
Canyonlands	1	Indiana Dunes	4	Rock Creek	1
Colonial	3	Isle Royale	2	Rocky Mountain	3
Cuyahoga	2	Joshua Tree	3	Sequoia	2
Death Valley	4	Katmai	1	Shenandoah	4
Denali	1	Kings Canyon	2	Southwest	1
Everglades	10.5	Klondike	1	Valley Forge	3
Fire Island	1	Lake Mead	.5	War in the Pacific	4
Florissant	2	Lincoln Home	1	Western Arctic	1
Fort Necessity	3	Mammoth Cave	1	White Sands	1
Fort Larned	1	Mojave	.5	Wrangell	2
Fossil Butte	1	Morristown	1	Yosemite	1
Gateway	2	Mount Rainier	2	Yellowstone	7
Gettysburg	1	Mount Rushmore	1	Virgin Islands	1
Golden Gate	7.5	Olympic	2	HABS/HAER	16
				<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>

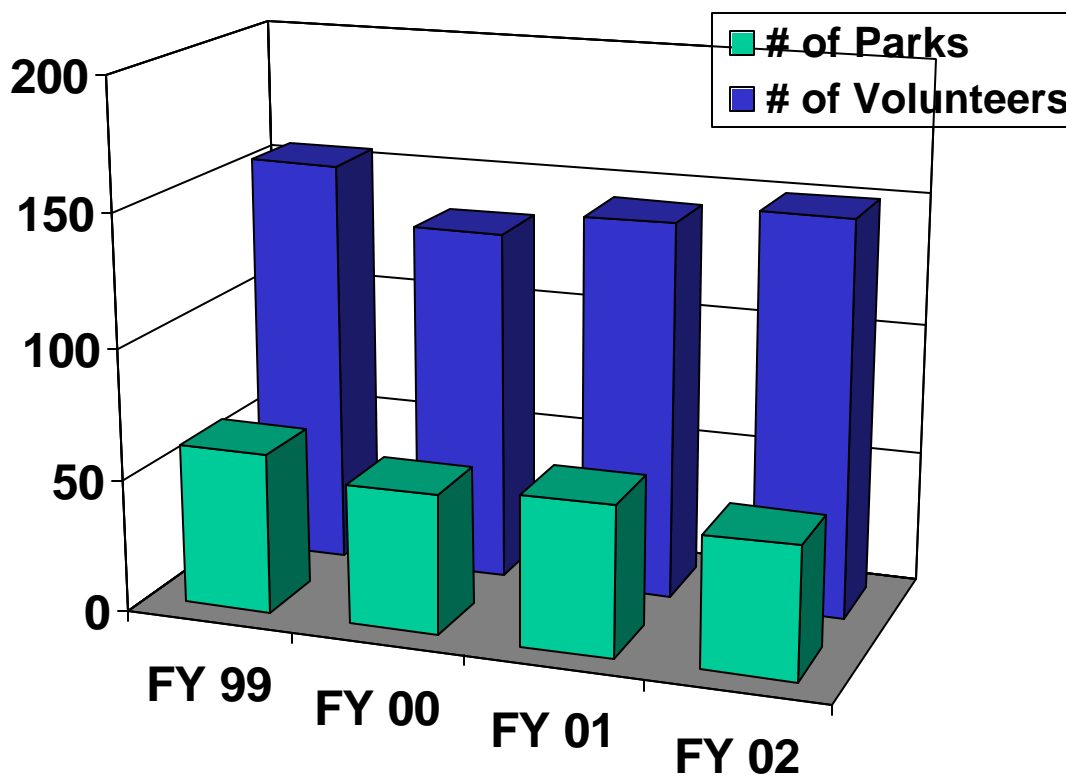
## IVIP Statistics

### Value of IVIP hours

FY 2001: 105,920 hours donated by IVIPs at \$15.39/hour\* = \$1,630,109.00 value of work

FY 2002: 73,220 hours donated by IVIPs at \$16.05/hour\* = \$1,175,181.00 value of work


*\*Independent Sector value of a volunteer hour*



	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
Number of Parks Participating	61	53	57	50
Number of International Volunteers	155	134	143	150

## U.S. State Department Web Page - Information on J Visa Program

Go to the U.S. State Department's web site at [http://travel.state.gov/visa\\_services.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa_services.html) and select "Go to Nonimmigrant Visas;" under Student and Exchange Visitor Visas select "Exchange Visitors" for more information.



U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Consular Affairs  
Visa Services

## Visa Services

**Important Notices:**

**Current Visa Processing Situation**

**Special Visa Processing Procedures** for nationals of state sponsors of terrorism pursuant to Section 306 of the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Reform Act of 2002.


**Go to Nonimmigrant Visas**

- [Enter Countries - Canada or Mexico](#)
- [Enter Growing Card \(EGC\)](#)
- [Employment Visas \(Nonimmigrant\)](#)
- [Immigrant Visas](#)
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## NPS Office of International Affairs Web Page Information on International Volunteers In Parks Program

Information on the International Volunteers In Parks (IVIP) program can be found on *ParkNet* at <http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/ivip.htm>

OR on *InsideNPS* by selecting Programs/Office of the Director/Office of International Affairs/  
International Volunteers In Parks.



National Park Service Office of International Affairs




### International Volunteers in Parks (IVIP)

Every year, more than one hundred individuals from all over the world volunteer in America's National Parks. The International Volunteers-in-Parks Program (IVIP) benefits both the individual volunteer and the National Park Service: the volunteer receives training in park management, wildlife research, environmental education, etc., and the National Park Service gains a fresh perspective

[OIA Home](#)  
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An International Volunteer in Parks conducting research at Joshua Tree National Park



Oregon Caves National Monument

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## Oregon Caves National Monument

### If you are not US Citizens

**you must have the J-1 Visa to Volunteer at National Parks in the USA.**

If you are not an American Citizen, you must have the J-1 Visa to do Volunteer work with **ANY** United States National Park, Monument, Historic Site, etc.. If you arrive at a park to do volunteer work and do not have the J-1 Visa, the staff cannot legally allow you to work!! International visitors who want to volunteer absolutely cannot substitute any other visa (ie. Travel Visa, Student Visa, Work Visa, etc) for the J-1 Visa. If you are already in the United States with a Travel Visa, Student Visa, Work Visa, etc. you cannot change it to a J-1 Visa without first returning to your home country! The National Park Service cannot make any exceptions to these rules. Please do not travel to the United States to work as a volunteer without the J-1 Visa because